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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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Health Department,
50, North Bondgate,
Bishop Auckland.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT 1947.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report in respect of the year 1947.

Area and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The Registrar General estimates that at mid 1947 the resident population was 34,690, an increase of 410 on the previous year's estimate. The rateable value is £147,143 and the product of a penny rate £540.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1947 was 10,081.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following extracts from the district's vital statistics the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are calculated on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	859	410	449
Illegitimate.	35	17	18
TOTAL.	894	427	467

The birth rate (live) per 1,000 of the estimated population was 25.6. That for England and Wales was 20.5. The birth rate here recorded is the highest for many years. The average birth rate for the years 1940 - 1946 was 20.5

Still Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate.	16	6	10
Illegitimate.	0	0	0
TOTAL.	16	6	10

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 17.6
 Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 0.46

This compares favourably with the still birth rate of England and Wales which in 1947 was 0.50.

The total deaths of district's residents occurring during the year, when corrected for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths, was 512. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 14.7 as compared with a rate for England of 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 births.
(a) From Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil	-
(b) From other Maternal Causes.	2	2.2

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	49.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	50.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	28.6

The infant mortality rate here recorded is again the lowest recorded since this Urban Area was extended eleven years ago. The rate in 1946 was 54.2. The district's infant mortality is still, however, higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, viz, 41.

The following table gives the number of deaths from various causes during the year.

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total.
Cancer.	34	30	64
Diabetes.	1	2	3
Cerebro-vascular lesions	28	36	64
Heart Disease.	72	67	139
Other circulatory diseases.	7	7	14
Bronchitis.	13	15	28
Pneumonia.	11	14	25
Other respiratory diseases.	8	5	13
Gastric or Duodenal ulcer.	3	0	3
Appendicitis.	5	0	5
Diarrhoea. (In infants under 2)	1	4	5
Other digestive disorder.	5	3	8
Nephritis.	5	3	8
Premature Birth.	4	2	6
Congenital malformation, injury at birth or infantile disorder.	5	14	19
Suicide.	3	0	3
Road Traffic Accident.	5	1	6
Other violent causes.	13	2	15
Tuberculosis (All forms).	14	13	27
Infectious Diseases (Including influenza).	3	3	6
Other causes than those specified.	23	26	49

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of the various notifiable diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) among the civilian population during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total No. of cases after corrected diagnosis.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small pox.	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	68	68	55	-
Diphtheria.	3	3	3	-
Enteric Fever.	2	1	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	3	1	3	1
Pneumonia.	11	11	-	25
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	1	-
Measles.	289	289	-	-
Whooping Cough.	120	120	-	1
Erysipelas.	8	8	1	-
Dysentery.	1	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	10	8	9	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from Tuberculosis occurring in the district during 1947. The figures have been corrected for inward and outward transfer, i.e. they pertain solely to persons normally resident in this area.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1 -	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	2	1	9	-	-	1	3
15 -	3	12	2	3	1	4	-	-
25 -	3	9	-	1	2	5	1	-
35 -	3	3	-	-	1	3	-	-
45 -	2	1	2	-	4	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals								
1947	13	27	7	14	11	12	3	3
1946	34	15	19	15	11	11	1	1
1945	24	20	20	7	15	9	5	6
1944	18	20	11	12	7	10	2	3

Of the total deaths from Tuberculosis recorded in 1947 six were in respect of patients who, prior to decease, had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

In the course of 1947 full courses of Immunisation treatment were given to 323 children under 5 years of age and to 32 children between 5 and 15 years.

At the end of the year under review, out of an estimated under 5 child population of 3,205, 948 had received a full course of treatment (29.5%) and out of an estimated population of children aged 5 to 15 years of 5,313, 2,785 or 52.2% had been fully treated.

Thus the position so far as protection of our child populace against Diphtheria is concerned is no better than it was at the end of 1946, and I am constrained to repeat the warning which I made in my annual report for the previous year, namely that unless there is a better response to the offer of free immunisation treatment then it can not be expected that our present remarkably low incidence of Diphtheria will for long be maintained.

(b) Rodent Control.

During the year the Council's Rodent Operator dealt with 86 minor and medium infestations of rats. Of these 33 infestations were on Council properties (e.g. refuse tips, sewage disposal works, Council allotments, etc.); 30 were on privately owned business premises; and 23 were on blocks of dwelling house properties which were serviced free of charge to the householders under Circular NS 12 scheme. The total estimated kill was 3,830 rats; 2,261 on Council properties, 951 on private premises, and 618 on blocks of dwelling houses.

The above mentioned figures exclude any estimate of rats killed by control operations in Council sewers during the year.

(c) Food Inspection.

During the year the Council's Sanitary Inspectors examined a total of 18,786 carcasses at the Central Abattoir. 80,729 lbs. of carcase meat and 40,061 lbs. of other food stuffs were condemned as unwholesome. All the condemned food was voluntarily surrendered; in no case was seizure necessary nor was there any prosecution for exposure or selling of unwholesome food.

(d) Conversion to Water Carriage System.

During the year 81 closets of the conservancy type were, by provisions of Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936, converted to water closets, a grant of £3.11. 9 being made in each case by the Council towards the cost of conversion.

At the end of 1947 the various types of closets existing in the district were as follows:-

Water Closets	6,989
Ash Closets	5,270
Ashpit Privies	322

The high percentage of conservancy type of closet still remaining in the district constitutes a considerable embarrassment, especially in winter months, to the Council's Cleansing Department.

(e) Control of Civil Building.

As local Licensing Officer on behalf of the Ministry of Works in respect of repairs to properties, your Medical Officer issued 736 licences during the year. Of these 489 were in respect of dwelling houses involving an expenditure of £24,531; and 247 at an expenditure of £11,970 were in respect of premises other than dwellings.

GENERAL HOUSING REPAIRS.


The following is the detail of general housing repairs done as a result of formal or informal notices during the year

Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.	No. of informal notices.	No. of formal notices by order of the Council.	No. of nuisances abated and housing defects remedied.
Dwelling) Structural defects			
Houses) or Foul conditions.	468	22	433
Cowsheds.	2	--	2
Ashpits and Privies.	124	2	120
Deposits of Refuse.	9	--	9
Water Closets.	63	--	64
Pigsties.	4	--	4
Defective drains.	191	1	180
Other Nuisances.	196	--	185

NEW HOUSES.

During the year 155 new houses were provided in the district as follows:-

- 105 temporary prefabricated houses.
- 32 permanent houses erected by the Council.
- 18 permanent houses erected by private enterprise.



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I append a series of tables showing comparisons in vital statistics etc., during 1947 and the preceeding seven years. Again, as in my reports for the previous three years the district's vital statistics may be considered satisfactory except for the incidence of Tuberculosis. The principal features of the year under review may be summarised as follows - a markedly increased birth rate, a low illegitimate birth rate, a lowered still-birth rate, and a continuation of the steady reduction in the infant mortality rate, and a high incidence of Tuberculosis in young females.

In my Annual Report for 1944 I commented at length on the high local incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in young females, and hinted at some of the possible causes. I have no reason to alter the opinion expressed therein. Many of the young persons employed in local factories and workshops, will, at an early date, receive the benefit of an organised scheme of mass radiography. This scheme, together with improved preventive and curative services under the New National Health Act, may, it is hoped, effect an early reduction in the incidence of and mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis which still remains a serious menace to the health and life of our young people. As I indicated in my 1944 report, I still advocate a better use of leisure, a fuller practice of personal hygiene, moderation in use of tobacco and alcohol, and an extension of open air recreations, as worth while preventive measures for this section of our community.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

H.G. DONALD.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX. - Comparisons in Vital Statistics etc., during the years 1940 - 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Birth Rate.	17.2	17.2	16.2	18.8	20.5	20.3	22.6	25.6
Death Rate.	15.1	12.7	12.7	14.5	13.9	14.4	13.5	14.7
Infant Mortality Rate.	83.0	63.3	65.3	81.6	62.9	59.1	54.2	49.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	22	4	8	1	9	-	3	-	4	1	1	-	2	-	3	1
Diphtheria.	82	2	119	2	86	1	88	1	29	2	37	1	12	-	3	-
Dysentery.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Enteric Fever.	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Erysipelas.	13	-	7	-	10	-	10	-	10	1	10	-	13	-	8	-
Measles.	245	2	83	-	220	-	962	1	22	3	614	-	54	-	289	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	6	-	3	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia.	35	17	24	10	39	20	32	18	24	16	13	16	19	14	11	25
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11	3	2	1	8	-	3	-	-	2	3	1	4	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever.	53	-	99	-	80	-	109	-	75	-	53	-	41	1	68	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	16	1	217	1	70	-	124	1	19	2	124	1	113	-	120	1
TOTALS.	478	29	571	15	525	21	1333	24	188	27	858	20	261	15	517	28

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES NOTIFIED.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Pulmonary Cases.	26	33	39	32	38	44	49	40
Non-pulmonary cases.	19	17	17	28	23	27	34	21

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Children under 5 years .	--	485	498	348	233	286	294	323
Children 5 to 15 years .	--	2616	286	160	52	35	23	32
TOTALS.	--	3101	784	508	285	321	317	355

